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Libyan mobs demonstrate against U.S.

LONDON (Reuters) — Anti-American protests by "angry masses" were staged throughout Libya yesterday over a U.S. press report that President Reagan ordered efforts to undermine Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi, Libyan radio reported.

A broadcast monitored by the British Broadcasting Corp. said the demonstrations included one in front of the Belgian Embassy, which represents U.S. interests in Tripoli.

Some of the crowd burned the American flag and an effigy of the American president, the radio said.

Published reports last weekend said Mr. Reagan had ordered the CIA to support covert operations to undermine Mr. Qaddafi without killing him.

The Libyan news agency JANA earlier reported Libya had asked the United Nations to end what it called "aggressive acts" by the United States.

[Algeria isn't involved in a secret CIA operation to destabilize the Libyan government of Col. Qaddafi, Algeria's state-run El Moudjahid newspaper said yesterday.

[Algerian President Chadli

Benjedid summoned the Algerian ambassador for talks Monday, United Press International reported. Diplomatic sources said they believed the president sought to assure Libya that Algeria was not involved in the reported CIA plan. Relations between the two neighbors have long been strained over Libya's claims to part of southeastern Algeria.]

The Arab League joined Libya in condemning the reported U.S. plot against the Libyan chief, denouncing it as a violation of international law.

Clovis Maksoud, the 22-nation Arab League's chief U.S. and U.N. representative, told a Washington news conference: "We are deeply disturbed by the recent disclosure of plans to unsettle, through means that violate elementary tenets of international law, the government of Libya.

"What is disturbing is that such plans are even envisaged, inasmuch as they constitute a disruptive element in international relations, a dangerous precedent in dealing with differences ... and it reconfirms that regular and normal channels to conduct relations are ignored."

He added that the incident "will have a negative spillover on the entirety of U.S.-Arab relations."

The U.S. Senate Intelligence Committee has launched an investigation into how word of the supposed CIA operation was leaked to The Washington Post. The Reagan administration has ordered its own inquiry.